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**NEWS From:**

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**Congressman Mike Honda**

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Contact: Ruben Pulido Jr. 202.225.3327  
[ruben.pulido@mail.house.gov](mailto:ruben.pulido@mail.house.gov)

**Rep. Honda: Mr. President, Stop Playing the Blame Game  
and Help the 9.4 Million Unemployed Americans**

***Unemployment Statistics Released Today Show  
Highest Unemployment Rate in 9 Years***

SAN JOSE, Calif., July 3, 2003 — Today, U.S. Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose) urged President Bush and the Republican Congress to reverse their devastating economic policies that have led to the worst job creation rate of any U.S. President since World War II, and the highest unemployment rate in nine years.

“The unemployment statistics released today are further proof that the economic policies of President Bush and the Republican Congress are deepening our recession,” said **Rep. Honda**. “The economy has lost 3.1 million private sector jobs since Jan. 2001. Now is the time to enact an economic stimulus plan to create jobs immediately.

“President Bush proclaimed that his policies would lead to job creation and economic growth. Since his irresponsible \$350 billion tax give-away to the wealthiest of Americans was signed into law, the opposite has been true,” continued **Honda**. In the last three months, the number of unemployed Americans has risen by 913,000. The unemployment increase from May 2003 (6.1%) to June 2003 (6.4%) represents the largest month-to-month increase in unemployment since the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.

But instead of focusing on fixing the economy, President Bush has taken a new strategy. According to the *Washington Post* \*, since mid-June, President Bush has blamed our country’s economic problems on the Clinton Administration. He makes these accusations even though the universally acknowledged authority on this economic data, the National Bureau of Economic Research ([www.nber.org](http://www.nber.org)), says the recession began in March 2001—after President Bush was sworn into office.

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\* *Washington Post* “As 2004 Nears, Bush Pins Slump on Clinton”, Tuesday July 1, 2003; Page A11